



# MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Recommendation Sheet No 80  
(April 1994)

## CONTROL OF *PULVINARIA ICERYI* (Pou à poche blanche) ON SUGAR CANE

This pest occurs sporadically and is found primarily on leaves of sugar cane and other grasses.

In infested sugar cane fields, it can be seen with white ovisacs on the leaves, the infestation usually starting at the base of the stools. The leaves later turn yellow and gradually die out. In cases of severe infestations, the whole plant may die.

As variety S 17 has been severely infested in the past, new varieties with S 17 as parents e.g M 1658/78 should be closely watched for any *Pulvinaria* infestation.

### CONTROL MEASURES

The existing complex of beneficial parasites and predators controls the pest and prevents it from reaching damaging levels. Nevertheless, short-term control measures are essential and the following are recommended :

#### 1. ADULT CANES

##### 1.1 If harvest is near :

Remove all infested leaves and cut young infested shoots. These should be left in the field to dry out.

##### 1.2 If harvest is not near :

Cut all canes in the infested zone or the whole field in case of very severe infestation and leave to dry out *in situ*.

#### 2. YOUNG CANES

##### 2.1 If infestation is localised and slight :

Remove infested leaves as above.

##### 2.2 If infestation is mild to severe :

Stubble-shave all stools in the infested area and leave on site to dry out.

##### 2.3 If infestation is very severe :

Stubble-shave the whole field. New shoots should be closely examined for presence of young stages and adults and the same procedure repeated to avoid further infestation.

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*Note :To protect beneficial parasites and predators :*

1. Avoid insecticide sprays.
2. Do not burn fields or cane debris.